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April 14, 2006

Catherine W. Seidel
Acting Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: TA's recommendation, 800 MHz Rebanding Timetable
WT Docket 02-55

Dear Ms. Seidel:

The below-listed concerned 800 MHz public safety licensees, members of Planning Region 20 in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Northern Virginia, hereby support the recommendation of the Transition Administrator ("TA") that the period for mandatory negotiation in Stage 2 of Wave 1 of the TA's Regional Prioritization Plan ("RPP") be extended by three months.¹

As you and your staff are aware, Region 20 public safety licensees have been working with the TA, Sprint Nextel and Motorola in support of a longer Stage 2 deferral aimed, among other goals, at maintaining the intricate web of interoperability relationships during the Wave 1 rebanding.² The TA's

¹ Letter of March 29, 2006 from Robert B. Kelly to Catherine W. Seidel. The Commission immediately adopted the TA's recommendation for a three-month extension for Stage 2 of Waves 2 and 3 but has not yet responded as to Wave 1. Public Notice, DA 06-767, March 31, 2006.

² Letter of a technical consultant, RCC, to Catherine W. Seidel, December 21, 2005, supported by a number of Region licensees, including Anne Arundel County, Maryland; Letter of February 6, 2006, to FCC Secretary from William C. DeHoff, Jr.

recommendation took note of views that a longer extension is needed, but also stated: "Representatives of the Public Safety community expressed support to the TA for a three-month extension." (Letter of Robert B. Kelly, 3)

We understand the TA's concern that an extension of negotiations in Stage 2 of Wave 1 "not adversely impact the ability of these markets to meet the 36-month deadline" for overall reconfiguration. While we repeat that the assured safety and reliability of the transition is more important than meeting a schedule for its own sake, we nevertheless place on the record here our support for the three-month extension, from July 31st to October 31st, 2006, of the period for licensee negotiations with Sprint Nextel in Stage 2 of Wave 1.

Sincerely,

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF CULPEPER, VIRGINIA
METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

By

James R. Hobson
THEIR COUNSEL

cc: Michael Wilhelm, David Furth, Blaise Scinto, WTB/FCC

See also, Letter of David J. Barney, Fairfax County, Virginia, to Brett S. Haan, January 30, 2006, with attachments.